Davidson, Nicholas Ferrar

June 1916
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N. F. Davidson ~~& Macdonnell~~
(Henderson & Davidson)
Barristers, Etc.

N. F. Davidson, K.C.

Tel. Main 1922

24 Adelaide St. East.

Cable Address "Hendavson" Toronto
Western Union Code

Toronto

6th June, 1916.

The Rev. Dr. Falconer,
President, Toronto University,
Toronto.

Dear Dr Falconer,

re my nephew Hugh Ketchum.

Perhaps you would drop a line to Lieut. King with regard to the enclosed. I fancy the University Battery is pretty well filled up, and I am convinced that it is as good a billet as is likely to be available. There are always changes which leave room for one more if he is sufficiently wanted, and a line from you to Lieut. King would probably be all that if necessary. Do you not agree with my preference?

Yours very truly,

N. Ferrar Davidson

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June 6th, 1916

Lieutenant Wright,

University Battery.

Dear Lieutenant Wright:

Mr. N. F. Davidson, a member of the Senate of the University representing Trinity College, has written the President regarding his nephew, Hugh Ketchum, whom he wishes recruited with your Battery. He has already written Lieutenant King. I am sure the President would be glad if you can see your way clear to have Mr. Ketchum attached to the Battery, as he is an undergraduate.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

June 6th, 1916

N. F. Davidson, Esq.,

24 Adelaide Street East,

Toronto.

Dear Sir:

In the absence of President Falconer I beg to acknowledge the receipt of your letter regarding your nephew, Hugh Ketchum, and to say that I am asking Lieutenant Wright, the Senior Subaltern, to do what he can for Mr. Ketchum. The University Battery is sending a draft of fifty men and one officer almost immediately, so that they will be recruiting again up to full strength.

Yours very truly,

President's Secretary.

June 22nd, 1916

N. F. Davidson, Esq.,

24 Adelaide Street East, Toronto.

Dear Mr. Davidson:

I have had a talk this morning with Lieutenant Wright, who has command of the Battery, with regard to the announcement that a second draft would soon be called for from them. I find that this is correct, and that at first Lieutenant Wright was rather disconcerted about it. He went to Niagara and interviewed his superior but found tha the authorities at Ottawa were set in their purpose and that a similar demand has been made of other batteries that will be brigaded with them. Our other officers here, who are senior to Mr. Wright, agree with him tha it would not be proper procedure for us to try to interfere at Ottawa with this decision.

Of course when they authorised the unit it was understood that drafts would be made from time to time. Our disappointment is that the drafts have begun so soon before the Battery has really built itself up. They will doubtless be sent to some Canadian Battery in England where they will be under charge of Canadian Officers, but hereafter no unit will be transferred as such for service at the front. This I understand is the fixed policy of the Department.

With kind regards, I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.